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HISTORY

lured into a snare³ by Marlborough's treachery ; he ' perished by the basest of all the hundred villanies of Marlborough/ ' Yet never *, Macaulay continues,

had Marlborough been less a Jacobite than at the moment when he rendered this wicked and shameful service to the Jacobite cause. It may be confidently affirmed that to serve the banished family was not his object, and that to ingratiate himself with the banished family was only his secondary object. His primary object was to force himself into the service of the existing government, and to regain possession of those important and lucrative places from which he had been dismissed more than two years before. He knew that the country and the Parliament would not patiently bear to see the English army commanded by foreign generals. Two Englishmen only had shown themselves fit for high military posts, himself and Talmash. If Talmash were defeated and disgraced, William would scarcely have a choice.²

Here again omniscience intervenes to supply the want of evidence. Macaulay has formed beforehand a clear conception of Marlborough's character; he is therefore absolutely convinced that he knows motives, though there is no record which reveals them, and suppresses facts and evidence which tell against his theory. The account of the Brest expedition is a good example of the way in which

history should not be written.

In the case of Dundee and Marlborough there were circumstances forming the basis of Macaulay's charges against their characters. Claverhouse did execute John

¹ V, 2450 (xx).

²E. M. Lloyd, Marlborough and the Brest Expedition, 1694, in English Historical Review, ix. 130-2. Cf. Arthur Parnell, James Macpherson and the Nairne Papers, *ibid.* **xii.** 254-84 ; Godfrey Davies, Macpherson and the Naime Papers, *ibid.* xxxv. 367-76; Winston S. Churchill, Marlborough, ii (1933), chap. 7.